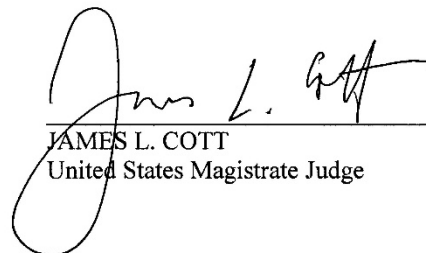


before they can solidify their respective positions on settlement. **Accordingly, no later than 14 days before the conference, the parties are directed to file on the docket a letter reconfirming their desire to proceed with the conference because they believe, with the Court's assistance, there may be a realistic chance of settlement.** At that point, plaintiff will be required to have made a settlement demand (if he had not done so already), and the Government will be better able to evaluate its own settlement position. What the Court wants to avoid is either plaintiff or the Government coming to the settlement conference and reporting to the Court that additional information through discovery is needed before meaningful settlement discussions may take place. If that were the case, then the settlement conference would need to be adjourned, the stay lifted, and discovery proceed before a settlement conference were to take place.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
July 28, 2020



JAMES L. COTT
United States Magistrate Judge